



Water has no substitute...Conserve it!

Media Contact: Jonell S.T. Kaohelauii
Information & Education Specialist
Phone: 808- 245-5461
Mobile: 808-755-5432
Email: jkaohelauii@kauaiwater.org

News Release

For Immediate Release: May 20, 2020

DOW reminds schools, hotels and commercial properties to flush plumbing fixtures prior to reopening to the public

LIHUE – The Department of Water (DOW) reminds schools, hotel properties and large commercial facilities to conduct a flushing of all plumbing fixtures throughout their property at least once a week and prior to reopening to the public. The flushing recommendation is also extended to properties that have significantly reduced the water demand within their systems during COVID-19 related closures or extended property vacancies.

A significant decrease in water demand; which includes the discontinued use and maintenance of water fixtures within a building, can cause stagnation, furthermore, existing sediment in pipes can be stirred up in the water upon returning to normal water use. The flushing process will help to prevent stagnation, clear out existing sediment and help to ensure chlorine residuals (which checks microbial growth) are maintained within their facilities.

Current maintenance of water fixtures should also include the proper care of cooling and air conditioning systems and frequently maintaining and flushing the property's hot water systems to avoid unwanted microbial growth; such as Legionella, during extended periods of non-use. Customers are also advised to check the backflow preventer on their property to confirm that it is functioning properly.

DOW closely monitors chlorine residuals levels on its water systems and conducts routine flushing protocols to ensure water quality continues to be safe and remains in compliance with state and federal regulations for drinking water.

For additional guidance on the development of a long-term Water Management Program, customers may visit the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov or by clicking on their direct link here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html>

###